

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for reproducing coniferous somatic embryos by somatic embryogenesis comprising growing an embryogenic culture derived from an explant on a nutrient medium selected from the group consisting of induction medium, maintenance medium and prematuration medium, wherein the nutrient medium comprises a galactose-containing sugar and an additional sugar, and wherein the induction medium is used to induce an explant to form an embryogenic tissue, the maintenance medium is used to grow and maintain the embryogenic culture and the prematuration medium is used to prepare the embryogenic culture for maturation to obtain cotyledonary stage embryos suitable for germination.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the galactose-containing sugar is lactose.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the galactose-containing sugar is less than about 6.0 % of the nutrient medium.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the nutrient medium is gelled or liquid.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the coniferous somatic embryos are selected from the family *Pinaceae*.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the coniferous somatic embryos are selected from the genera *Pinus*, *Picea* and *Pseudotsuga*.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the coniferous somatic embryo is *Pinus taeda* or a hybrid thereof.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the coniferous somatic embryo is *Pseudotsuga menziesii*.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the coniferous somatic embryo is *Pinus radiata*.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the embryogenic culture is cultured in at least one prematuration medium comprising a galactose-containing sugar and then transferred to a maturation medium to produce cotyledonary stage embryos suitable for germination.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the prematuration medium contains less auxin and less cytokinin than the maintenance medium.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the prematuration medium further comprises abscisic acid.
15. (Cancelled).
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the additional sugars are readily metabolized.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the additional sugars are selected from the group consisting of sucrose, glucose, and fructose.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the galactose-containing sugar is more than about 1.0% of the nutrient medium.
19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the embryogenic culture contains early stage embryos.
20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the galactose-containing sugar is less than about 2.0% of the nutrient medium.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the galactose-containing sugar is between about 1.0% and about 6.0% of the nutrient medium.
22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the nutrient medium further comprises an auxin and a cytokinin.
23. (Previously presented) A method for reproducing *Pinus taeda*, *Pinus radiata*, and *Pseudotsuga menziesii* somatic embryos by somatic embryogenesis which comprises growing an embryogenic culture derived from an explant on a nutrient medium selected from the group consisting of induction medium, maintenance medium and prematuration medium, wherein the nutrient medium comprises a galactose-containing sugar and an additional sugar, and wherein the induction medium is used to induce an explant to form an embryogenic tissue, the maintenance medium is used to grow and maintain the embryogenic culture and the prematuration medium is used to prepare the embryogenic culture for maturation to obtain cotyledonary stage embryos suitable for germination.
24. (Cancelled).
25. (Cancelled).
26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the galactose-containing sugar is lactose.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the galactose-containing compound is less than about 6.0% of the nutrient medium.
28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the nutrient medium is gelled or liquid.
29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the somatic embryo is *Pinus taeda* or a hybrid thereof.
30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the somatic embryo is *Pseudotsuga menziesii*.
31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the somatic embryo is *Pinus radiata*.
32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 in which the embryogenic culture is cultured in at least one prematuration medium comprising a galactose-containing sugar and then transferred to a maturation medium to produce cotyledonary stage embryos suitable for germination.
33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the prematuration medium contains less auxin and less cytokinin than the maintenance medium.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the prematuration medium further comprises abscisic acid.
35. (Cancelled).
36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the additional sugars are readily metabolized.
37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein the additional sugars are selected from the group consisting of sucrose, glucose, and fructose.
38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the galactose-containing sugar is more than about 1.0% of the nutrient medium.
39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the embryogenic culture contains early stage embryos and the early stage embryos are being cultured in the selected nutrient medium.
40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the nutrient medium further comprises an auxin and a cytokinin.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the galactose-containing sugar is less than about 2.0% of the nutrient medium.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the galactose-containing sugar is between about 1.0% and about 6.0% of the nutrient medium.

43. (Previously presented) A method for reproducing conifers by somatic embryogenesis which comprises: growing conifer cells on a nutrient medium comprising a galactose-containing sugar, additional sugars, an auxin, and a cytokinin to produce an embryogenic culture and transferring the embryogenic culture to maturation medium to obtain cotyledonary stage embryos suitable for germination and reproduction of conifers.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the galactose-containing sugar is galactose.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the galactose-containing sugar is galactose.

46.- 49. (Cancelled)